

KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AB

01865 372143

Email: clerk@kidlington-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council

Held at Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington on Thursday 12 March 2020

Present: Cllr David Robey (Chair) Cllr David Betts, Cllr Dan Clacher, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Doug Williamson

Apologies: Cllrs Carole Pack, Chris Pack, Conrad Copeland, Fiona Mawson, Ian Middleton, Katherine Tyson, and Tracey Wyse

In attendance: Clerk to the Council – Rachel Faulkner

20/016 No declarations of personal or prejudicial interests were received.

20/017 The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 January 2020 were signed as a correct record.

20/018 Public Participation - none

20/019 No District or County Councillors attended the meeting to give reports.

20/020 The Council received the minutes of Committees and **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations:

- Planning Committee on 13 February – moved by Cllr Graham
- Policy and Finance Committee on 27 February – moved by Cllr Robey

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the amended Risk Assessments

- Community Committee on 5 March – moved by Cllr Robey

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve recommended expenditure:

20 new chairs for the Pavilion at a cost of £450 + VAT

Artificial grass matting for Exeter Close – under the slide and at the ends of the Table Tennis at a cost of £1,593 + VAT

Solar Lights at Ron Groves Park at a cost of £4,440.84 although these are being funded by the OCC Councillor Priority Fund granted by Cllr Billington and Cllr Griffiths.

The Council discussed the status of the Climate Change Working Group and agreed that its purpose is to develop a strategy and to consider and propose initiatives to committees.

20/021 **Clerk's Report**

Bollard: The Council discussed the problems with the rising bollard on the High Street. Cllr Clacher agreed to contact senior officers at TVP to find out why it is still not operational and how its repair can be accelerated.

Exeter Close redevelopment: The Clerk updated members on recent meetings with OCC officers and consultants from Carter Jonas (CJ). CJ have been employed to carry out scoping work to prepare for an Options Appraisal. Members of the sub-committee had met the consultant to discuss their aspirations for the site. The hope is to hold a stakeholders meeting in early May if possible. The Council agreed that the option to develop housing in the middle of the site, although allowed by the restrictive covenants, was not likely to be a viable option in practice. They also agreed that there would have to be a very strong reason to move the Bowls Club and that is was definitely not their preference to do so.

COVID 19 – the Council discussed the position regarding the current virus. The office and building is currently open to the public although this is under constant review. The clerk confirmed that all staff had been kept up to date with the government advice regarding hygiene and the caretakers are

cleaning hard surfaces throughout the day. The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase three new laptops for officers to use if required to work from home.

The Council **RESOLVED** to extend the delegation of Council decisions to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman during the current period of restricted activity in respect of the Covid-19 virus. Such delegation to enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to its residents

Emails – some councillors reported that they were still having difficulty with the new email system and the Clerk advised them to speak to Microshade directly.

20/022 The Council received the Internal Auditors report. They noted that the advice was to increase the Fidelity/Dishonest Employees insurance. The Clerk to investigate the additional cost to do so and report back to the Policy and Finance committee.

20/023 Councillors were asked to confirm whether they would be taking the Member's Allowance in 2020/21. All of the Councillors in attendance opted out of receiving the allowance. The Clerk to follow up with Councillors not present at the meeting.

20/024 Members were informed that a meeting had taken place earlier that day to discuss the next steps to improve the drainage at Bicester Road Cemetery which has become waterlogged following the extreme weather conditions of the last few months. Cllrs Robey, Betts and Street, the Clerk, Facilities Manager and Community Projects Officer had met on site and then at Exeter Hall with Cemetery Development Service, White Horse Contractors, Cherwell DC officers Tony Brummell and Iain Osenton, local farmer and G&WE Councillor Merlin Smith, grounds contractor Ady Podbury, and former engineer Carl Smith. At the meeting they had confirmed that the graves are being backfilled and topped up in the correct way. White Horse contractors have been asked to complete an updated topographical survey which would be used by Cemetery Development services to plan a grid of drains and paths to be installed when the ground is drier. The drains would connect to the newly cleared ditch along the northern boundary of the site. It was not advised to take action while the ground is wet. Once the current burial ground has been drained, the Council would consider proposals to prepare the area currently behind the hedge for future burials – it is expected that this work would be done in the summer of 2021. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman would consider quotes when received and if necessary approve without further reference to Council.

20/025 **Annual Parish Meeting** – currently the Council intends to hold the APM on 30 April although it is very possible that it may need to be postponed. The speakers will be David Robey to discuss general Council business and achievements, David Betts to discuss finance, Alison Street with Rosie Rowe to update on the K5 Better Together Healthy living project, Neil Prestidge to discuss the Council's Climate Change policy and Thames Valley Police to give an update on crime figures in the village.

20/026 **Parish Newsletter** – The clerk asked that all articles for the newsletter be received by Friday 20 March.

20/027 It was agreed that the Policy and Finance meeting be moved from 7 May to 16 April to avoid the local elections. *(However, since the meeting, the elections have been postponed for 12 months so the original date would be kept).*

The meeting closed at 9pm